

# Board of Supervisors

Resolution No. 2006-251  
IN RECOGNITION OF THE SIGNING  
OF THE SOBOBA BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS  
WATER SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians (Soboba Tribe) has lived alongside the San Jacinto River in Riverside County since the 16<sup>th</sup> century; and

WHEREAS, the Soboba Tribe built the first irrigation ditch in the San Jacinto Valley and when American Settlers entered the valley in the 1860s the tribe possessed a self-sustaining, agricultural economy, built on the tribe's rich water resources; and

WHEREAS, the tribe's water supplies began disappearing when the newcomers diverted water from the San Jacinto River and built dams in upstream tributaries; and

WHEREAS, by the 20<sup>th</sup> century the combination of the Metropolitan Water District's San Jacinto tunnel and the accumulated effects of many years of water diversion from the tribe's water resources reached critical proportions for the tribe; and

WHEREAS, in 1950 the Soboba Tribe sued the federal government in the Indian Claims Commission for failing to protect it from the effects of the San Jacinto Tunnel, as well as from the ground water pumping and upstream diversions of surface water that depleted the reservation's water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government settled the aforementioned lawsuit in 1991 and joined with the tribe in attempting to negotiate an overall resolution of the reservation's water related claims; and

WHEREAS, these negotiations included the Soboba Tribe, the Department of the Interior, the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, Eastern Municipal Water District, Lake Hemet Municipal Water District, and Metropolitan Water District; and

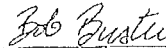
WHEREAS, the parties finalized the terms of the settlement of the land and water claims in 2003; and

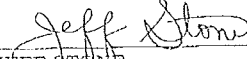
WHEREAS, all of the negotiating parties forged this cooperative agreement to ensure the future of the region's water supply and economic health for the area's inhabitants; and

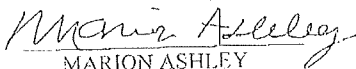
WHEREAS, the terms of the settlement for the Soboba Tribe include an adequate and secure future water supply; funds from the local water districts for economic development; funds from the federal government for the water development and 128 acres of replacement land for the commercial development; and

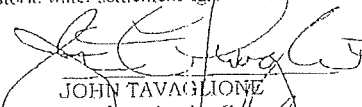
WHEREAS, the signing of this settlement agreement brings to a close more than 75 years of conflict and struggle between the Soboba Tribe and its neighbors over the San Jacinto River basin's water resources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County on behalf of the citizens and staff commends and congratulates the Soboba Tribe and all parties involved in reaching this historic water settlement agreement on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year 2006.

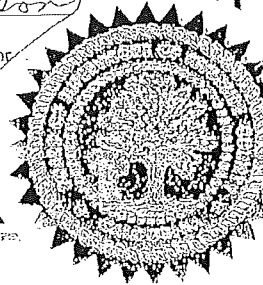
  
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Fifth District Supervisor

  
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Second District Supervisor

  
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